

JUL 26 2006

Docket No. 742421-79
Serial No. 10/669,684
Page 2IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 8 and 9 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 10 and add new claim 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An automobile pedal supporting structure for an operation pedal disposed behind a dash panel of an automobile, comprising:

a first bracket having front and rear ends which allow the first bracket to be removed from a vehicle-side member by a crash load on a front side of the automobile, the front end of the first bracket being fixed on the dash panel[[],] and the rear end of the first bracket being fixed on a the vehicle-side member which is more rigid than the dash panel so that the first bracket can be removed from the vehicle-side member by a crash load on the front side of the automobile; and;

a second bracket, being substantially wrapped with the first bracket to pivotally support an operation pedal by a frontal lower pivotal point, the and having a front-end lower part of the second bracket being pivotally attached to the first bracket so that the second bracket can so as to allow the second bracket to swing, the and a rear-end upper part of the second bracket being fixed on the vehicle-side member through the rear end of the first bracket so that the second bracket can as to allow the second bracket to be removed from the vehicle-side member by a the crash load on the front side of the automobile, ~~and the operation pedal being pivotally attached to the second bracket so that the operation pedal can swing, wherein the first bracket and the second bracket are placed to substantially overlap each other; the rear end of the first bracket and the rear-end upper part of the second bracket are fixed together on the vehicle-side member; and;~~

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a turn promoting member ~~is provided, which is connected~~ extending from the vehicle-side member through the rear-end outside of the first bracket to the upper part of the second bracket ~~and promotes so as to promote~~ a turn of the second bracket toward the vehicle-lower side ~~by using~~ as a result of a backward movement of the first bracket toward the vehicle-rear side caused by ~~a~~ the crash load on the front side of the automobile; and

a pedal supporting shaft provided on the second bracket such that the pedal supporting shaft extends through an upper area of the second bracket.

wherein the turn promoting member includes a wire member having connected ends one of which is connected to the pedal supporting shaft and the other to the vehicle-side member.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 2 1, wherein a movement restriction member is provided on said rear end of the first bracket so that a transversal movement of the wire with respect to the rear end portion of the first bracket is prevented.

4. (Original) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 3, wherein said movement restriction member includes a guide member in which the wire member is inserted is provided at the rear end of the first bracket.

5. (Original) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 4, wherein the guide member is made of resin.

6. (Original) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 1, wherein the turn promoting member is configured so that a larger backward movement of the first bracket toward the vehicle-rear side makes the turn of the second bracket larger.

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7. (Original) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 1, wherein the operation pedal is a brake pedal.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 9 1, wherein the both connected ends of the wire member are positioned in a frontal side of the rear end of the first bracket where the wire member is slidably connected ~~with~~ and the frontal lower pivotal point ~~6e~~ of the second bracket is positioned on a frontal side with respect to the positions of the both ends of the wire member.

11. (New) The automobile pedal supporting structure according to claim 1, wherein the one of the connecting ends of the wire member is formed in a ring shape.